

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OPR-02 SY-05 IO-10

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O R 170517Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3887

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3458

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA, TH

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SAVANNAKHET AND REPORT OF CREATION OF LAO
GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

1. I CALLED THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR PHENG PHONGSAVAN
THIS MORNING TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER HE AND SECRETARY OF
STATE DEUANE HAD LEFT FOR SAVANNAKHET AS PLANNED. THEY
HAD NOT AND PHENG WAS RATHER EVASIVE. I THEREFORE
CALLED THE PRIME MINISTER WHO SAID THAT HE HAD JUST
RECEIVED THIS MORNING A DISTURBING REPORT TO THE EFFECT
THAT A LAO GOVERNMENT IN EXILE HAD BEEN FORMED IN BANGKOK
WITH THE FOLLOWING ATTRIBUTIONS:

CHIEF OF STATE-BOUN OUM

PRIME MINISTER-PHOUI SANANIKONE

MINISTER OF DEFENSE-NGON SANANIKONE

MINISTER OF FIANCE-SISOUK NA CHAMPASSAK

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS-HOUMPHANH SAIGNASITH

"GUERRILLA AFFARIS"-GENERAL ETAM

2. I TOLD PRIME MINISTER IN MOST FORCEFUL FASHION POSSIBLE THAT: A) WE HAD NO INFORMATION WHATSOEVER TO SUPPORT THIS REPORT; B) IN ANY EVENT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT SUPPORT SUCH A GOVERNMENT; C) I FOUND IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY, GIVEN PRESENT POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND, THAT IT WOULD PERMIT THE CREATION OF SUCH A GOVERNMENT IN BANGKOK. II SAID THAT NEVERTHELESS I WOULD RELAY THIS IMMEDIATELY TO BANGKOK AND ADVISE HIM OF ANY INFORMATION WE MIGHT HAVE.

3. HE SAID THAT MOST OF THE LEADERS WERE STAYING AT THE EREWAN HOTEL EXCEPT FOR HOUMPHANH WHO WAS AT THE LAO EMBASSY, ETAM WHO WAS IN NONG KHAI, AND VANG PAO WHO WAS AT UDORN. HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD VANG PAO HAD ESCAPED WITH A GOOD MANY ARMED PERSONNEL. I ANSWERED THAT ALL OF THEM HAD MADE THEIR WAY TO THAILAND ON THEIR OWN AND I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS.

4. AS REGARDS SAVANNAKHET, I EXPRESSED OUR CONTINUING CONCERN ON THE SITUATION. WE HAD RECEIVED A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM THERE THIS MORNING THAT EVERYONE WAS WAITING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEGOTIATORS. IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE LONGER THEIR ARRIVAL WAS DELAYED THE STRONGER TENSIONS WERE BECOMING. HE ASSURED ME THAT THE TWO MINISTERS WOULD LEAVE FOR SAVANNAKHET TODAY.
CHAPMAN

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